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PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS

Letter dated 17 June 1991 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council

In response to the Council's invitation, as contained in its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, the Committee on Conferences met on 12 June 1991 to review the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992 and 1993 in the economic, social and related fields, as contained in document E/1991/L.25. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review this draft calendar of conferences and to provide, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

In introducing the draft calendar, the Secretariat reported on the ongoing implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, particularly with regard to the scheduling of one substantive session of the Council and the effects this has had on other bodies.

A number of questions were raised and proposals were made in this regard and on other possible changes, such as delaying the start of sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and advancing the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The proposals were generally acceptable to the Committee on Conferences and the Secretariat was therefore requested to investigate the technical feasibility of accommodating the requests and to advise the Council accordingly during the Council's consideration of the draft calendar.

The Committee on Conferences also noted that, in accordance with Council resolution 1988/77, paragraph 2 (f) (i), the Secretary-General would ensure that meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council end at least eight weeks

* E/1991/100.

before the session of the Council at which their reports were to be considered. The Committee noted that in the draft calendar submitted by the Secretary-General, the subsidiary bodies of the Council were, to the extent possible, scheduled to end their 1992-1993 sessions at least eight weeks prior to the dates proposed for the Economic and Social Council.

The Committee on Conferences wished also to encourage the Council that the discontinuance of summary records for its sessional committees as well as for some subsidiary bodies of the Council be maintained.

The Committee on Conferences recommended the adoption of the draft calendar as presented based on the following additional observation and suggestion. Bodies whose mandates were due to expire, but were expected to be presented for renewal to the Council at its upcoming sessions, would be included in the draft together with an explanatory note indicating that the respective body would meet as indicated if its mandate were extended by the Council. In this way, none of the entries would be deleted, and those bodies pending extension of mandate would be incorporated into the draft prior to its presentation to the Council.

In closing, I should like to express the Committee's appreciation of the Council's invitation to review its draft calendar of conferences and meetings, and of the continued close cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Conferences.

(Signed) Kwaku Duah DANKWA
Chairman, Committee on Conferences